



NL STUDY GUIDE

CHURCH *under* CONSTRUCTION: PART 3: BUILDING COMMUNITY

Pastor Matt Lagerquist
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ACTS 2:42-27

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

44 All the believers were together and had everything in common.

45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

SCRIPTURE

ACTS 2:42-27

Watch this week's Life Group Session: nlchurch.com/actsvideos.

Watch this week's message online: nlchurch.com/watch.

OBSERVATION

The idea of community shown in this section of Acts can be inspiring and also a little scary. The way the early church shared everything, spent so much time together sounds appealing in our busy, disconnected world. Yet being close means being together when life gets messy, too--and that takes work. As you consider the passage today, use the questions below to foster conversation about what being in community means for you.

Historical Note

This is the only place in the book of Acts where we see this communal aspect of the church. Terminology in this passage even echoes other Greek philosophical writings that describe an ethic of friendship and shared giving that can be realized through ideal social and political arrangements. Luke makes clear that this community was key to the fact that God helped them grow daily.

1 Why is it key to note that the early church enjoyed "the favor of all the people?" How might that differ from your church experience?

2 Verse 42 says they "devoted themselves" to teaching, praying, being together, and eating together. Which of these is most "church-like" to you--and what seems the most "unlike" your experience?

3 As you read the passage, why do you think the "Lord added to their numbers daily those who were being saved"?

APPLICATION

When you apply something, you put it into practice. It's one thing to read the Bible, it's another thing to live it out. A practical application of what you just observed from today's study can help you discover just how much impact Scripture can have on every situation of your life!

In this section, discuss some ways you can apply what you've learned from the video teaching and Bible study. Then, think about some practical ways you can live out what you've learned.

- 1 Being devoted to something means to give your heart and soul to it. What are some things you are most devoted to?
- 2 They met together in the temple and in each others' homes. What ways can you "do life" with people both at church, in your neighborhood, and in your community?
- 3 The early church "ate together with glad and sincere hearts," which might sound pretty special. What do you think it takes to create an environment where people do things together with that kind of attitude?

PRAYER

Use the space below to write out your prayer in response to today's message.

My take away today: _____

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